Neufeld got confused on some things and writes what I am sure Chip did not say

Student's film explores

By Matt Neufeld
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Chip Selby does not remember where he was when John F. Kennedy was shot 25 years ago.

Of course, the 26-year-old University of Maryland graduate student was a mere babe then. But Mr. Selby, who has produced an award-winning 51-minute documentary that explores the much-debated "single-bullet theory," says he does know where nearly all the key players in the assassination were — including a second gunman.

And he says that ballistic tests, autopsies and exhaustive interviews prove there was a second gunman on a grassy knoll that was located in front of the limousine on Dealey Plaza in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963.

His film, "Reasonable Doubt: The Single-Bullet Theory and the Assassination of John F. Kennedy," however, is not being dismissed as just another speculative entry in the long line of conspiracy theorists.

"It is by far the most effective thing that had been aired" during this anniversary period, said Harold Weisberg, a leading assassination expert and publisher of six books on the Kennedy assassination. "It is a solidly researched job."

According to the single-bullet theory, which the Warren Commission based its conclusions on, three bullets were fired by Lee Harvey Oswald from the sixth floor of the Texas School Book Depository.

The theory is that a first bullet hit Mr. Kennedy in the neck, passed through his throat, then struck Texas Gov. John Connally — who sat in the forward jump seat — in the back, wrist and thigh.

The commission said that a second bullet missed. A third bullet struck Mr. Kennedy in the head, fatally wounding him.

Some conspiracy theorists maintain that possibly four shots were fired, and not in the order and placement stated by the commission. Mr. Selby, a native of Baltimore who now lives in Greenbelt, said the commission's findings are bunk. He claims he has facts to support his view.

Mr. Selby said a well-known film shot by Abraham Zapruder, a Dallas

JFK 'single bullet theory'

garment worker, shows that Mr. Kennedy moved back and to the left when struck in the head, indicating someone fired from in front of Kennedy's limousine, from the grassy knoll; doctors operating on Mr. Kennedy said his throat wound was an entrance wound, but the commission said it was an exit wound; and that not enough time lapsed for Oswald to have fired three shots.

"The evidence shows there had to be at least two people involved," Mr. Selby said. "And that's all we will know."

All of these points, and others that Mr. Selby raised, have been talked about for most of the past 25 years. But Mr. Weisberg said it was the manner in which they were presented in the film that gave the work the credibility that others lacked.

"It's factual," Mr. Weisberg, of Frederick, said. "He takes some of the basic facts as they were alleged by the government and addresses them. He does not go for all this idle theorizing, which is good because there's no basis in fact for any of it."

Mr. Selby, a communications arts major, worked on the film for 3½ years and spent $23,000 of borrowed money — $7,000 from his girlfriend Sandy Svoborda; $2,000 from his brother Mike, who co-wrote and co-filmed; and the rest from credit cards.

The piece, which Mr. Selby did for his master's degree, ran for the first time during the weekend on the Arts and Entertainment cable television network. It was reviewed favorably in The (Baltimore) Sun.

In October the Council on International Non-theatrical Events awarded the film its Golden Eagle award for best in the history documentary category.

He said he did the film "because I had something to say. I had something to say about the single-bullet theory, that the single-bullet theory was impossible, and the evidence showed there was a conspiracy to kill the president."

Although his efforts have been exhausting and expensive, Mr. Selby, like others, said he still does not have all the answers. "I don't think we'll ever know who they [the other gunmen] are."

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